

# Soil Free Amino Acid (S-FAA) Content Assay Kit

**Note:** Take two or three different samples for prediction before test.

**Detection equipment:** Spectrophotometer

**Cat No:** NA0184

**Size:** 50T/48S

## Components:

**Reagent I:** Liquid 60 mL×1, store at 4°C.

**Reagent II:** Liquid 30 mL×1, store at 4°C.

**Reagent III:** Liquid 30 mL×1, store at 4°C.

**Reagent IV:** Powder×2, store at 4°C. Each powder should be dissolved completely in 2 mL of distilled water before use. The unused reagent could be stored at -20°C for 2 weeks.

**Standard:** Powder×1, store at 4°C. Dissolve in 4.13 mL of distilled water and prepare as 20 µmol/mL standard solution before use. The unused solution could be stored at 4°C for 4 weeks.

## Description:

As an important class of compounds, amino acids account for 15%-60% of total nitrogen in soil, which are 'sink' and 'source' in soil nitrogen cycle and plant nutrient supply. Amino acids could be absorbed directly or by mineralization to satisfy the need of plant nitrogen nutrition. Amino acids are also important nitrogen sources for soil microbes and have direct effects on soil microbial community structure, quantity and activity. Study on variation of amino acid contents in soil is of great significance to soil nitrogen cycle and plant ecophysiology.

α-Amino of amino acid could react with hydrated ninhydrin to produce blue purple compound, which has absorption peak at 570 nm, and content of amino acid is calculated by measuring absorbance of 570 nm.

## Required but not provided:

Spectrophotometer, refrigerated centrifuge, transferpettor, water bath/dry bath, 1 mL glass cuvette, mortar, 30-50 mesh sieve, ice and distilled water.

## Protocol:

### I. Sample preparation

After drying naturally or at 37°C, soil samples should be passed through 30-50 mesh sieve. Add 1 mL of Reagent I to 0.15 g of soil samples, mix thoroughly. Oscillate for 2 hour and centrifuge at 10000 rpm for 10 minutes to remove insoluble materials, and take the supernatant on ice for testing.

### II. Determination procedure

1. Preheat spectrophotometer for 30 minutes, adjust wavelength to 570 nm, set zero with distilled water.
2. Standard: Dilute 40µL of 20 µmol/mL standard solution with 160µL of distilled water to generate a 4

μmol/mL standard.

3. Add reagents as the following table.

Reagent (μL)	Test tube (T)	Standard tube (S)	Blank tube (B)
Sample	200	-	-
Standard	-	200	-
Distilled water	-	-	200
Reagent II	500	500	500
Reagent III	500	500	500
Reagent IV	50	50	50

Mix thoroughly, incubate at boiling water for 15 minutes, repeatedly overthrow centrifuge several times. Centrifuge at 8000 rpm for 5 minutes, then detect the absorbance of supernatant at 570 nm. Record as  $A_T$ ,  $A_S$ ,  $A_B$ ,  $\Delta A_T = A_T - A_B$ ,  $\Delta A_S = A_S - A_B$ . Detect within 30 minutes after coloration. Standard tube and blank tube need to test once or twice.

### III. Calculation

$$AA (\mu\text{mol/g weight}) = (C_S \times V_S \times \Delta A_T \div \Delta A_S) \div (V_{SV} \div V_{ST} \times W) = 4 \times \Delta A_T \div \Delta A_S \div W$$

$C_S$ : Standard concentration, 4 μmol/mL;

$V_S$ : Standard volume, 0.2 mL;

$W$ : Sample weight, g;

$V_{SV}$ : Sample volume, 0.2 mL;

$V_{ST}$ : Sample total volume, 1 mL;

#### Note:

1. Prepare Reagent IV before use and protect from light.
2. The reaction of proline and hydroxyproline with ninhydrin has no absorption peak at 570 nm. Therefore, the determination result at 570 nm does not contain these two amino acids.
3. When  $\Delta A_T$  is more than 1, it is recommended to dilute the sample with Reagent I before determination.

#### Experimental example:

1. Take 0.15g soil sample to 1ml Reagent I, and operate as the procedure after taking the supernatant,  $A_T=0.645$ ,  $A_S=0.745$ ,  $A_B=0.052$ ,  $\Delta A_T=A_T-A_B=0.645-0.052=0.593$ ,  $\Delta A_S=A_S-A_B=0.745-0.052=0.693$ , calculate content by sample weight:

$$AA (\mu\text{mol/g weight}) = 4 \times \Delta A_T \div \Delta A_S \div W = 4 \times 0.593 \div 0.693 \div 0.15 = 22.819 \mu\text{mol/g weight.}$$

#### References:

[1] Wang X, Cui X Y, Guo Y F A study on free amino acid in different forest types soil of cold-temperate forest region[J]. Journal of Nanjing Forestry University (Natural Science Edition), 2016, 59(04): 42-48.

[2] Wang B, Jiang Y Y, Jiao J G, et al. Effects of earthworm on constituent and amount of amino acid

in soil[J]. Acta Ecologica Sinica, 2015,35(14):4816-4823.

[3] Zhang X J, Wang W Y, Li W Q, et al. Dynamics of soil dissolved organic nitrogen in alpine meadow[J]. Journal of Lanzhou University: Natural Sciences, 2016, 52(5):623-627.

**Related Products:**

- NA0746/NA0504 Urea Nitrogen Content Assay Kit
- NA0749/NA0507 Plant Nitrate Nitrogen Content Assay Kit
- NA0747/NA0505 Plant Ammonium Nitrogen Content Assay Kit